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Justice

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union
(ILGWU)

3-6-1925

Justice (Vol. 7, Iss. 10)

International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU)

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Keywords

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, ILGWU, labor unions, clothing workers, textile workers, garment workers, garment industry, New York, United States

Comments

Justice was the official publication of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union ILGWU from 1919 to 1995. Editions of *Justice* were published in English, Italian, Spanish, and Yiddish. When compared side by side, the content of some of these different editions of *Justice* shows significant differences. This is the English-language edition of *Justice*.

"My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go."

—Job 27.6

JUSTICE

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

"Workers of the world unite! You have nothing to lose but your chains."

Vol. VII, No. 10.

New York, Friday, March 6, 1925.

Price 2 Cents

First Group of Cooperative Houses to be Built in the Bronx

I. L. G. W. U., Cap Makers' International, Fur Workers, and Leather Goods Workers Purchase Square Block for First Unit of Houses in West Bronx—Meeting Elects Board of Directors—Construction to Begin Early in Spring—International Union Bank to Finance Building Plan

At a meeting held in the Council Room of the I. L. G. W. U. on Wednesday morning, March 4, attended by representatives of the International, the Fur Workers, the Cap and Millinery Workers, the Leather Goods Workers and the International Union Bank, it was announced that the provisional committee appointed several weeks ago to look for a plot for the construction of the first group of co-

operative houses sponsored by the I. L. G. W. U. and the organizations affiliated with it in the Union Bank, had taken an option on a plot of land covering one square block at Mott Avenue and 159th Street, in West Bronx. After receiving the report of the committee, the meeting decided to instruct it to purchase the ground.

This marks a definite step in the direction of constructing cooperative

homes for the members of the needle trade unions in New York. The meeting voted to immediately incorporate the building organization under the laws of the State of New York and to proceed to work without delay. The plot selected by the unions for their first group of apartment houses is located in one of the most desirable sections in the city; it is bounded by 160th and 159th streets and runs east from Mott Avenue. It commands an opening view on the Grand Concourse and is near the subway lines and the elevated.

Plans for the Houses

The plans for the apartments contemplate use of only 30 per cent of the land for the buildings, leaving a central garden plot covering 70 per cent of the square block. There will (Continued on page 2.)

Cleveland Judge Grants Temporary Injunction To Cloak Firm

A temporary injunction was granted by the Livingston & Schwartz Company, cloak manufacturers, 2539 Superior Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio, on Thursday, February 26, by Judge Melvin H. Wood, restraining the Cleveland Cloak, Suit, Skirt and Dressmakers' Union from "interfering with the rights of the company."

Attorneys for the cloak firm charged that on February 13 the union workers displayed a banner and circulated doggers to "cause the public to believe that a strike was in progress in the factory." The firm claims that no strike in their shop is in existence. Judge Wood restrained the Union from displaying strike banners and cards.

The Livingston & Schwartz firm, formerly a Union shop, has abrogated its agreement with the organization, and began forcing its employees to sign "yellow dog" individual contracts. The strike against this firm is part of the organizing campaign of the Cleveland Joint Board. The Union expects to have the temporary injunction withdrawn at an early hearing.

Special Meeting of G. E. B. Discusses Policy and Action

Board Holds Two-Day Session in Bridgeport, Conn.

At the last quarterly meeting of the G. E. B. held in January in Montreal, Canada, President Sigman, before the meeting adjourned, touched upon some lack of unity between the leaders of the I. L. G. W. U. with regard to fundamental matters involving both policy and practical activity and stated that some of the vice-presidents were inclined to view the major problems of the International more from the viewpoint of the individual locals they represent than from the point of view of the organization as a whole.

It was then agreed that at the first opportunity the members of the Board would get together and give this matter thorough consideration. Accordingly, last Thursday, February 26, all the members of the G. E. B., with the exception of two or three who could not leave their posts, met in Bridgeport, Connecticut, and for two days discussed this very important subject in a most thoroughgoing way, analyzing it from every side and angle.

The details of the meeting and the (Continued on page 2.)

Label Custodians in All Shops Receive Label Rules and Regulations

Must Forward Weekly Report to Office

On Monday, March 2, Manager Charles Jacobson of the Label and Insurance Office of the Cloak and Dress Joint Board forwarded to all shop chairmen in the cloak and dress

industry of New York a list of instructions and regulations concerning the use of the Sanitary Label on all garments made in their shops. Under the rules adopted by the Joint Board, the shop chairman is the Label Custodian in each shop and is charged with the duty of supervising the application of the Label in the shop. The letter reads as follows:

Dear Sir and Brother:

As the LABEL CUSTODIAN of your shop, it is your duty to see to it that all Rules and Regulations concerning the use of the SANITARY LABEL are strictly observed and to send in your WEEKLY REPORT to our office.

The Sanitary Label is the only EFFECTIVE means for the abolition of the CORPORATION and SWEAT-SHOPS which are undermining our industry, and by insisting on the use of this label on ALL garments made in our shops the welfare of EVERY WORKER in industry will be SAFEGUARDED.

It is, therefore, the duty of EVERY WORKER in YOUR SHOP, and particularly YOUR duty, to see to it (Continued on Page 11)

Underwear and Children's Dress Strike Ended; Cotton Garment Ass'n Settles With Union

Underwear Manufacturers' Association Concedes Strict Union Shop—Investigation and Revision of Wage Scales—Raises Given to Cutters and Machine Operators—Many Other Concessions—Ninety per Cent. of Children's Dress Makers Return to Work in Settled Shops

The strike in the underwear and children's dress trades, begun two weeks ago in New York City under the auspices of the Miscellaneous Trades District Council, virtually ended this Wednesday, March 4, after the committee of the Union, headed by Mary Goff, business agent of the local; S. B. Shanker, of Local 19, and a committee of workers. The Cotton Garment Association was represented by its president, M. H. Rosenburg, its manager, Herman Mason, and its attorney, Harry A. Gordon.

The terms of the settlement, in essence, embody the following concessions:

1) A strict union shop; 2) Thirty days after the termination of the strike, a committee from the Union and from the employers are to work out a minimum scale of wages for every branch of work in the trade; 3) Upon thirty days' notice, each contracting party may call upon the other to revise existing wage scales; 4) No work shall be sent out from any inside shop to be made up outside unless the inside workers are fully provided with work; 5) Cutters are to receive an immediate increase of \$3.00 per week, piece workers a 5 per cent increase, and all week workers a raise of \$1.00; 6) All employers must use Union made and Union labeled embroidery and other auxiliary parts on underwear made in their shops.

At the time of writing, the terms of the settlement concluded between the representatives of the employers' association and the Union are being presented to the strikers at a special meeting called for this purpose at the Manhattan Lyceum, the chief assembly place of the underwear workers, at 66 East 4th street.

Children's Dress Trade Nearly All Settled

Over 90 per cent of the workers who left their shops on Tuesday, February

17, have already returned to work under full union conditions. The few remaining shops, Vice-President Lefkowitz announced, have now been transferred to the hall of the Rand School on East Fifteenth street.

Several new children's dress, house dress and kimono shops have been taken down during the last few days and these will be kept out until the firms for which they are working concede the demands of the Council and grant Union conditions.

Four Toronto Cloak Shops Still In Fight

General Organizer Hochman Leaves for Canada to Wind up Strike Affairs in Montreal and Toronto

As we go to press, we received the following telegram from Brother Sol Polakoff, International organizer in charge of the Toronto strike, who has assisted Brother Julius Hochman in the Canadian campaign:

"The strike against the four cloak firms, the only ones remaining from the general strike in this city, is in excellent shape. The workers are very active on the picket line.

All union workers from the settled shops are paying regularly ten per cent of their wages weekly for the benefit of the strikers.

"A meeting of cloakmakers was held on Thursday, March 5, at Alhambra Hall, at which, for the first time since the general walkout, a complete report of the achievements of the strike was rendered to them by Brother Polakoff."

First Cooperative Houses to be Built in the Bronx

(Continued from page 1)

also be a playground on this plot.

The building will be five stories high, and will contain 200 to 220 apartments, according to present plans, of three to seven rooms each. If permission is given by the building department, a number of garages will also be erected on the plot as an integral part of the building.

Plan of Payment

The plan on which the building will be conducted calls for a down payment of \$150 to \$200 per room, and payment thereafter of \$10 to \$15 per room per month thereafter.

The tenant will be the owner of the apartment, and the monthly payment will cover all upkeep, wear and tear, depreciation, heat and light, besides providing payments for amortizing the mortgages on each apartment. With the tenants' equity in the apartment constantly growing, he will eventually own his apartment free and clear.

Laundry facilities will be provided in the cellar of the building. There will be hot drying rooms, and also individual compartments for the use of each tenant.

The meeting also appointed a board of directors for the building corporation which is to be composed of rep-

resentatives of the affiliated organizations. The following were appointed:

From the I. L. G. W. U.—Morris Sigman, Abraham Baroff, Jos. Breslaw, Jos. Fish and Manny Weiss.

From the International Bank—Morris Hillquit, Philip Kaplowitz.

From the Furriers' International—Morris Kaufman, A. Rosenthal.

From the United Cloth Hat and Capmakers—Max Zaritzky, Max Zuckerman.

From the International Pocket Book Workers, Ossip Wolinsky.

The Board of Directors will have its first meeting on Friday morning, March 6, in the Council Room of the I. L. G. W. U. building, to take steps for the immediate incorporation of the building association and to commence construction activity without delay.

The architect for the building is Mr. Andrew Thomas. Several dozen applications have already been received and filed with the International Union Bank. Members interested in the project are requested to communicate at once with Brother Philip Kaplowitz, the cashier of the Bank, at 21st street and Fifth avenue.

Special Meeting of G. E. B.

Discusses Policy and Action

(Continued from page 1)

arguments presented at it will be brought forth from time to time in subsequent issues of Justice. Suffice it to state for the present that the discussion succeeded in bringing the desirable understanding between the members of the Board and that they have united on all questions of policy and action as enunciated by President Sigman. A committee consisting of President Sigman and Vice-Presidents Feinberg, Perlestein, Wander, Breslaw, Dubinsky and Ninfo, was appointed to bring uniformity of action in accordance with the spirit of these discussions in all the local and joint boards affiliated with the I. L. G. W. U.

At the end of this meeting, President Sigman reviewed the condition in the cloak and dress centres all over

the country. He dwelt in particular upon the situation in New York where a tremendous struggle is likely to be forced upon the Cloak and Dress Joint Board.

The necessity of a more unified policy and mode of action is, in view of this prospect, all the more urgent and vital.

Owing to the fact that this meeting was not announced, it was possible to conduct the discussion without the usual interruptions and waste of time which accompany every other regular meeting of the Board. It was marked by frank and straightforward exchange of opinion and contributed greatly to the removal of all possible misunderstandings which threatened to create lack of harmony and unity of action among the leaders of the Union.

Reunion of our Students and Instructors on Mar. 28

The annual reunion of students and teachers of our classes will take place on Saturday, March 28, at 7 p. m. in the dining-room of Washington Irving High School.

On this occasion, past and present students of our numerous classes and their friends and instructors and officers of the union will assemble and spend a few hours in sociability and good fellowship.

The program for the evening will be refreshments, music and dancing.

The Students' Council, under whose auspices the affair is arranged, have decided, in order to defray some of the expenses involved, to charge 35 cents admission.

Reservations can be made at once either in person or by writing the Educational Department, 3 West 16th street.

Chairman Ingersoll Upholds Worker's Complaint

A complaint charging unequal distribution of work in the factory of Ben Gershel & Co. was brought last week before the impartial Chairman in the cloak and suit industry of New York, Raymond V. Ingersoll. After a hearing, during which the facts were carefully sifted, Chairman Ingersoll gave out a decision which, in part, stated:

"One of the firm's designers had engaged a finisher to work in his sample room with two piece tailors."

"The finisher says that he left another position to take this work, relying on a promise by the designer that when there should be insufficient work for her in connection with the stock produced in the sample room, work would be supplied to her from the piece tailoring department in the factory."

"The designer, on the other hand, says he told her only that he would

do his best to keep her supplied with work. He admits that in this he has not been very successful. Although finishers in the piece tailoring department have been busy, she has been without work much of the time."

"The designer emphasizes the point that the firm's work is separated into departments between which there is little interchange either of workers or of garments."

"The trial board considers that it is not fair that a finisher should be dependent for employment on such work as may come from the piece tailors. In spite of the division into departments, the firm must adjust its system so as to give this finisher her fair proportion of the finishing work arising in connection with piece tailoring."

"The Gershel firm is a member of the Industrial Council of the Cloak, Suit and Skirt Manufacturers' Protective Association of New York."

Needle and Textile Unions Confer On Labor Costs

President Green Chairman of Gathering—Vice-President Fannie M. Cohn Represents Ladies' Garment Workers

President William Green presided last week at a conference of representatives of all needle trades and textile workers' internationals affiliated with the A. F. of L. to consider costs of labor in textile production. The conference was summoned by President Green in conformity with a resolution introduced by the United Textile Workers of America and passed at the El Paso convention calling upon the Executive Council to investigate production and labor costs in the textile trades.

The conference took place on Saturday morning, February 22, in Washington, D. C., in the Federation building. Attending the conference were representatives of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, the United Cap and Cloth Hat Makers, the United Hatters, the United Garment Workers, the Journeymen Tailors' Union, the United Textile Workers and three federal locals of New York workers. Secretary Frank Morrison also attended.

The conference lasted all day Saturday, and before concluding adopted after thoroughgoing discussion a resolution presented by a sub-committee, calling upon all the participating internationals to forward all available material on labor costs pertaining to their trades and industries to President Green. All the delegates expressed their recognition of the importance and usefulness of getting together and discussing in an expert way the problems affecting both the textile and garment industries. Such an intimate discussion is all the more desirable as it may serve to equip the leaders in these industries with material to combat the moves of the employers to cut wages and reduce work standards.

President Green stated that he will submit all material received to the next meeting of the Executive Council of the Federation, which will be held in May, and that another such conference will be summoned if deemed advisable.

Vice-president Fannie M. Cohn attended the conference on behalf of the I. L. G. W. U.

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The Unity House in 1924

Managing Committee Renders Final Statement

To the Executive Board
of the Overseasmen's Union
Local No. 22, I. L. G. W. U.
Greetings:

In connection with the financial report of the Unity House which is being submitted to you for the last season, the Unity House Committee felt it its duty to report on the activities of the Committee since it first organized itself at the end of April, 1924. The Executive Board already has an idea as to the spirit in which the Unity House was managed during the past season as reports from the Committee have been submitted from time to time. However, they felt that there are some matters which call for additional attention and which should be reported as they are not touched upon in the financial report which speaks of the income and expense of the last season only.

Usually, after a season, the Unity House Committee submits a financial report as to the past season and recommends plans for future work. Unfortunately, at the end of the 1923 season, by the time the House had been closed and the auditor was ready with the financial report, the committee had no one to whom to submit its report and recommendations as Local No. 22, which had a majority interest in the institution, had at that time no administration. When the present administration was elected it had a number of pressing organization matters to be disposed of and it was very near to the season when the question of the Unity House could finally be taken up.

When the question of the Unity House was taken up by the Executive Board there was a difference of opinion as to whether this House should be managed by our local as formerly be transferred to the International. When it was finally decided that the local should conduct and manage the Unity House for another season it was already very late and the committee had very little time to prepare the House for the coming season.

When the committee finally assumed the management of the House they found it in very bad condition. The plumbing had to be fixed, the House needed painting inside and outside, and there was very little time to do these necessary repairs.

The committee, having as its object the management of the House on a proper and efficient basis, came to the conclusion that as Brother Rothenberg is more acquainted with the work than anyone else, as he managed the institution for the last two seasons, he should be requested to assume the responsibility of managing the House this season also. Brother Rothenberg was very reluctant to assume this responsibility, as he is aware of the hardships incurred in past years, and how especially difficult it would be this year as no substantial work could be done under the circumstances outlined. He explained to the committee that no substantial work could possibly be done during the short period remaining until the opening of the House and there can be only a question of patching up, and most of the money spent would mean nothing but a waste as the repairs will not be able to be made permanent. Brother Rothenberg finally decided to assume the management after much persuasion on the part of the committee.

Most of the members of the committee, from our local were delegates to the Convention, and Brother Rothenberg, who was at that time work-

ing in the office of the Joint Board, made arrangements to leave the office and spend his entire time at the Unity House as the season was nearing.

From the financial report you will see that a greater number of workers were employed to open the House this year than ever before. Prior to the opening we fixed the tennis courts, painted some of the houses inside and outside, fixed up the lawns, the hot water system, laundry and bakery.

The opening of the House this year was very successful and delegates were there from all the locals of Greater New York besides the General Executive Board of the International. The opening was a wonderful demonstration of union solidarity.

During the season, however, we did not have as many guests as we had the previous year and at times it seemed as if it would be necessary to close the House. The committee did everything possible by sending out letters to the guests that were at the House during previous seasons, also sending letters to the shop chairman and, by means of posters, to get sufficient publicity for the House. However, due to the bad weather and a number of other things there were not as many guests.

The Fourth of July brought the biggest crowd the Unity House ever witnessed. There were many more families and they stayed much longer this year than in previous years. This year the number of weeks that the families stayed altogether was 470, whereas last year they stayed only 200 weeks. Most of them were families of members of the union.

Records show that we had 886 members at the \$16.00 rate, 702 at the \$18.00 rate and 1,908 outsiders this year. Although the percentage of the number of members was less than last year, the number of weeks they stayed at the House was greater.

Though we were transacting the affairs of the institution in a business manner, we also did some educational and recreational work. We communicated with the Educational Department of the International and each week they sent us a lecturer, among them being Professors Levine, Fichandler and Feigen. In addition we heard Scott Nearing, S. Niger and a good many others. We also arranged literary mornings, among the contributors being David Pinsky, Finkelstein, Aaronreich and others who were the presenters.

The Committee divided itself into a number of sub-committees: Brothers Greenberg, Rabinowitz and Schoenholz served on the Finance Committee, endorsing bills and vouchers. Brother Schoenholz took care of the publicity work and also had charge of the New York office. He cooperated with the Forest Park office, reporting at various times the number of people to be expected and also regulating the number of families to go out to the House. He saw to it that the families of members were given preference.

There were also a number of sub-committees which kept in constant touch with the House, reporting to the weekly meetings of the entire Committee in New York. Although there were times when misunderstandings arose between the committee and our manager, Brother Rothenberg, we can say that he performed his work in an honest and commendable manner.

At the closing of the House we expected to have the General Execu-

From One Who Failed of Reflection

Dear Editor:

As one who was defeated for reelection in the last election of business agents in the New York Clockmakers' organization, I desire to say a few words to my office colleagues for the past few years in the Brownsville office of the Union and to the Brownsville members in general.

I wish to express to them my sincere thanks for the confidence they have given me during the years I had served them. I am going to work in the shop now and I pledge myself to be of whatever help I can only be to them. I give my thanks to my fellow officers, Brothers Max Karolinsky and Samuel Goldstein and to Miss Hattie Press, the bookkeeper in the office, for the friendship they have always displayed for me.

And above all I desire to thank the manager of the Brownsville Office, Brother Joseph Kesten, who has amply proven to me that he is not only a friend and a comrade but one of the best men we have in our Union. I am convinced that under his management, the Brownsville shops will in no distant future be placed on the same footing as the New York shops. I wish them all success.

Fraternally,
LOUIS GOLDSTEIN,
Lodger 1402, Local 2.

Raincoat Shop Thanks Administration of Local 20

Dear Editor:

Please insert in *Justice* the following resolution adopted by our shop last month:

"We, the workers of Cooper Raincoat Company, in a shop meeting assembled, have decided to express our fullest confidence in Brother David Gingold, our manager, and Brother Morris Weintraub, our secretary, and in the whole new executive board recently elected, for their attitude towards our shop which we consider as the best expression of trade union loyalty.

"Our firm has made a record for itself in continuously disregarding the feelings of our workers and their rep-

resentatives. Apparently they thought that these abuses would go unchecked forever. One of the firm recently brutally insulted our manager, Brother Gingold, and as a result the shop stopped work in protest.

"That same evening, at a meeting of the Executive Board of Local 20, it was decided to fine this firm one hundred dollars, the money to go to the relief fund of the Local. The fine was collected on the following day.

"The members of our shop feel proud of our leaders and their stand and we pledge ourselves at all times to stand by our administration in our common fight for decent treatment in the shops.

"THE SHOP COMMITTEE."

representatives. Apparently they thought that these abuses would go unchecked forever. One of the firm recently brutally insulted our manager, Brother Gingold, and as a result the shop stopped work in protest.

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"THE SHOP COMMITTEE."

RAND SCHOOL NOTES

On Saturday, March 7, at 3:30 p. m., Prof. E. M. Earle of Columbia University will discuss "Nationalism and Imperialism: Twin Menaces," at the Saturday Afternoon Camaraderie, held-in the Debs Auditorium, 7 East 15th street.

On Monday evening, March 9, Mr. Joseph Jablonover will lecture at 8:30 p. m. on "The Drama of Social Conflict."

On Saturday, March 14, Scott Nearing will resume his lectures on "Current Events at 3:30 p. m. in the Debs Auditorium, and will also begin a course in Applied Sociology at 11 a. m.

Much interest is being expressed in the forthcoming debate between Rear Admiral W. L. Rodgers of the United States Navy, and Professor Scott Nearing of the Rand School. The question to be discussed is: "Resolved: That Military Preparedness is Necessary for the General Welfare of the United States." Admiral Rodgers will maintain the affirmative and Professor Nearing will deny the truth of the statement. The debate will take place in Town Hall, 113 West 43rd street, on Sunday afternoon, March 15, at 2:30 p. m. Dr. John Haynes Holmes of the Community Church will act as Chairman of the debate. Tickets are now on sale at the box office of Town Hall and at the Rand School, 7 East 15th street.

members of our Union. After all, the purpose of establishing the House was not to bring about a means of income for our union, but it was brought into being to yield certain advantages for our members. So the committee is well satisfied with the work that it has done this summer because it has done this work in as sincere and able a manner as was possible.

Fraternally submitted,
UNITY HOUSE COMMITTEE,
(Signed) Sarah Kaplan, Chairlady
Peter Rothenberg
Chas. Margulis
Hyman Greenberg
Joseph Rabinowitz
Anna Sosnoffsky
Jacob Kant

JUSTICE

A Labor Weekly

Published every Friday by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union
Office, 3 West 16th Street, New York, N. Y. Tel.: Chelsea 2142
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A. BAROFF, Secretary-Treasurer. H. A. SCHOOLMAN, Business Manager.
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Arbitration In Labor Cases

No. 5—Setting the Conditions of Arbitration.

We have already explained that sound arbitration rests on an agreement reached in collective bargaining. It is not abstract justice handed down from above. It is a decision of certain disputed points by an arbitrator or board designated for that special purpose by the parties themselves. On this account it is important to see that the proper conditions are set for the arbitration proceedings.

The Agreement

The arbitration agreement is the basic law which guides arbitration. It fixes the procedures under which arbitration may be appealed to, and it usually prescribes the method of choosing the arbitrator or arbitrators. Care should be taken to see that such an agreement provides for proper conciliation proceedings to precede any appeal to arbitration. If it is desired to arbitrate only certain kinds of questions—such as wages—proper reservation concerning matters not subject to arbitration should be made in the agreement. The arbitration agreement should have a definite term of expiration, so that fundamental changes may be made if necessary when the agreement expires. Provision for the automatic renewal of an arbitration agreement which has expired should be provided so it deprives the workers of the right to strike when such action might furnish the only remedy.

The Term of the Contract

Sometimes there is only one agreement covering both the arrangements for arbitration and such concrete matters as wages, hours and conditions. Sometimes there are two agreements—one covering arbitration and the other a subordinate contract which may be for a shorter period than the arbitration agreement, covering wages, hours and so on. In either case there are certain things to look out for. One is the length of time fixed in the contract for the duration of a certain wage scale. If prices and the cost of living are likely to rise rapidly—as they did during the war—it is wise to provide for revisions at fairly frequent intervals, perhaps as often as six months. If business conditions are fairly stable, or there is some reason to expect a drop in prices and employment, a longer period of duration is desirable. It is very difficult to predict accurately the future business situation, but good advice on this point is invaluable. Some labor leaders have been lucky enough to fix their agreements for such terms that wages are usually up for revision in times of good or reviving business, but remain fixed by contract during times of depression. In an industry with certain well-known busy and slack seasons during the year, it is of course unwise to have agreements which expire in the slack season.

Wage Standards

It is usually unwise to specify definitely in any agreement the conditions which must be considered by the arbitrator in arriving at his wage decisions. Certain unions got into trouble after the war by signing contracts which were interpreted by arbitrators to mean that wages should go up or down only as the cost of living went up or down. This appeared to work satisfactorily while the cost of living was going up, but created trouble when it started to fall. There are of course many other important things to be considered in fixing wages besides changes in the cost of living. If the field is left perfectly free for any argument, new circumstances may be considered and a reasonable judgment

applied. This will usually work out better for labor in the long run than any hard and fast set of wage principles written into an agreement.

Wages as a rule change more rapidly than hours of work or working conditions, and it is wise to allow for more frequent adjustments of wages than of the other matters.

An important preliminary to arbitration proceedings which is often used by experienced unions is the "agreed statements of facts." The arbitrator should know just what questions are being put up to him and what his limitations are. This is provided for by such a statement, agreed to by both sides, and adopted before each proceeding. The agreed statement of facts contains the clauses of the contracts on which arbitration is based, and the demands of both parties.

It must be remembered that an arbitrator will usually take into consideration not only the abstract justice of a question but the actual bargaining power of the union and the employers, respectively, and the earnestness with which they support their demands. In other words, he is concerned not only with a theoretically correct decision, but with avoiding a strike or labor unrest on the one hand, and business troubles of the employers on the other. All this has a bearing on the proper time and circumstances of arbitration.

Steel Trust Rules Industry

The far-reaching extent to which the Labor policy of the United States Steel Corporation determines the wage scale of steel workers throughout the industry and thereby makes difficult the development of even modest efforts in the direction of employees' representation is shown in a report issued recently by the Industrial Studies Department of the Russell Sage Foundation as the result of a five-year investigation of the Industrial Representation Plan of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company, one of the independent steel companies, of which the Rockefeller family is principal owner.

The report declares that through the Rockefeller employees' representation plan, the men in the steel works of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company were able to secure the actual eight-hour day five years before the Steel Corporation and the rest of the industry adopted it, but points out that because this company feels impelled to follow the wage scale of its competitors, chief among which is the Steel Corporation, its workmen have no real share in the determination of their wages.

"In an industry so devoid of any tradition concerning representation of the workers as the steel industry is," declares Mary Van Kleeck, Director of the Foundation's Department of Industrial Studies, "the Industrial Representation Plan of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company

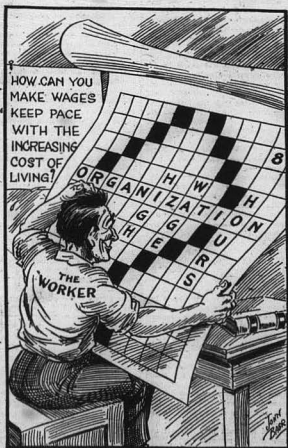
marks a distinct step in advance; for under the plan the men in the steel works of this company secured such important gains as the actual eight-hour day, an opportunity to participate in revising wage scales, a method of presenting and discussing grievances, and a greater degree of security in their jobs through the right to appeal to higher officials against the decisions of foremen and superintendents. When one looks at these accomplishments and then considers the methods of the United States Steel Corporation, one must conclude that at least in one small segment of the industry the wage-earners have been given a voice in determining the conditions under which they must work. Nevertheless, until the men throughout the industry secure adequate and effective representation in determining wage standards, those employed in any one plant such as the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company's steel works, are bound to be dissatisfied. Every week the steel workers in this company are reminded by their pay envelopes that the scope of their representation does not give them an effective share in determining their own earnings."

The lack of this representation in the determination of wage scales, according to the report, was one of the principal reasons why the steel workers of this company walked out practically in a body when the national steel strike of 1919 was called, notwithstanding the fact that they had already enjoyed the eight-hour day as well as several other conditions which the men in the rest of the industry so badly wanted.

Ben M. Selekman, who conducted the investigation for the Foundation and prepared the report, found that in the opinion of the workmen the most serious obstacle to the success of the plan is the minor local official, not the higher official. Workmen repeatedly accused foremen of favoritism and of being arbitrary. The fact that the company did not promote employees according to seniority was another common and deeply felt grievance, which though not always reported to the company was responsible for much dissatisfaction. The men were reluctant to make complaints because it meant antagonizing officials under whom they had to do their daily work.

The Industrial Representation Plan was introduced in the coal mines and steel works of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company by John D. Rockefeller, Jr., ten years ago. It has since been adopted with variations by more than 800 other companies, including a number of other independent steel producers. The plan provides for periodic meetings of representatives of employees with an equal number of company officials and for joint committees of employees' representatives and company representatives to consider such questions as industrial cooperation and conciliation; safety and accidents; sanitation, health and housing; recreation and education.

The Answer to the Cross Word Puzzle



BUY
WHITE LILY TEA
COLUMBIA TEA
ZWETOCHNI CHAI

Exclusively

This Law Enforcement

By NORMAN THOMAS

This law enforcement is great stuff for the masses. President Coolidge is for law enforcement but he appoints as Attorney General the president of two sugar companies charged with violating our anti-monopoly laws. He keeps in office Secretary of the Treasury Mellon, who is heavily interested in the aluminum trust which his fellow cabinet officer, Attorney General Stone, recently had occasion to denounce for some of its practices in restraint of trade. (Incidentally, Mr. Stone's action in this connection restores some of our faith in his courage and honesty. Perhaps his curious action in the Wheelbarrow case in part due to too much trust in subordinates who are hold-overs from the Daugherty regime.)

Speaking of law enforcement, we should like to have listened in on that breakfast President Coolidge gave to Judge Gary and John D. Rockefeller, Jr., as representatives of the Committee of One Thousand for enforcing the Volstead Act. Of course, no one was so unhelpful as to remind the president of the steel corporation of those guarantees of freedom of speech and assembly which his corporation so successfully ignored in the last steel strike. Judge Gary, we understand, is an honorary member of the Fascist, and the Fascist principle is to make the other fellow obey the laws that suit you. It is a principle not unpopular in America.

The Loss of Branting

In the death of Hjalmar Branting, three times Socialist Prime Minister of Sweden, the Socialist movement has lost one of the strongest of its moderate leaders and the cause of democracy and peace a sincere and ardent champion. Those Americans who look at all Socialists as crazy idealists or impossible men would do well to study Branting's record.

The Profits of Poison

We greatly regret the failure of the Opium Conference to adopt proper measures for dealing with an enormous evil. But we are proud of the role that America has played and encouraged by the degree of support America won. It is especially satisfactory that the Oriental delegates, both Chinese and Japanese, seem to share the American opinion as to the necessity of drastic international regulation of the opium evil at this source.

It is possible that the convention finally drawn up marked some advance in dealing with the drug problem. This is a matter with which we shall deal in a later issue. But we are glad that Mr. Porter refused to compromise and by his refusal called dramatic attention to the insincerity of those powers which want to appear righteous and satisfy the growing public feeling against the drug evil without sacrificing revenue.

Never was the evil influence of profit plainer. Great Britain, France, Holland and Portugal have shilly-shallied and equivocated on this drug evil for one reason and one reason only. They derive great revenues in their colonies from the systematic poisoning of the people with opium. Their profits are not merely through license and taxation. By drugging the Chinese coolies and native workers of the Far East they are enabled to get cheap labor. This, to its credit, the United States has refused to do in the Philippines. It will be a more expensive and difficult job for other nations to agree to effective international control of drug production beginning with the growth of the poppy, but there are few individual reforms more imperatively necessary for the well-being of the world.

A Tale of Two Counts

Count Karolyi is a Hungarian nobleman; so is Count Szechenyi. Their ancestors were comrades in the struggle for Hungarian independence. Before and during the war, Count Karolyi was a liberal opposed to the imperialism and militarism of the central powers. Count Szechenyi was not. Count Karolyi headed the first peaceful Hungarian revolution. He sacrificed much of his own large estate to social justice. He trusted to Allied fairness. He failed. Today he is an exile, hounded by the reactionary Horthy government, which has confiscated all his property. Count Szechenyi, who married a Vanderbilt, represents that government in the United States.

The Countess Karolyi became dangerously ill on a lecture tour in America. When her husband, who was in England, thought John Biggs, he was obliged by an American Consul under pressure of Horthy and Szechenyi to agree to say absolutely nothing in public in the United States. The State Department at first refused to relax the ban although we understand that under some pressure it has consented to allow Count Karolyi to answer personal letters brought against him by his enemies in America.

America is a country which once believed in the right of political asylum. It never used to allow foreign governments or ambassadors to dictate what should speak in America. But times have changed. Good counts are reactionary counts. . . who marry heiresses and don't fool around with the revolution, and the exiles we delight to honor are Russian grand duchesses whose hand the Monday Opera Club is graciously permitted to kiss. If this is progress, we, for our part, should like to go back to old American traditions. We suspect that Secretary Hughes is discovering that a good many other Americans share our preference.

Step By Step

"Step by step the longest march

Can be won; can be won.

Single atoms will form an arch:

One by one, one by one.

"And by union, what we will

Can be all accomplished still.

Drops of water turn a mill,

Slightly none, slightly none."

The Organization Campaign of the New York Dressmakers

By SIMON FARBEN

The third week of the campaign undertaken by the dressmakers of New York to organize the non-Union dress shops of New York passed off with significant results. The volunteer organizers of the dress locals who are tackling this difficult task are going ahead with increased energy as the resistance of the employers is becoming stiffer, the number of active workers interested in the drive is becoming correspondingly greater.

In addition to the 300 volunteer organizers who have joined in this drive from the outset, several of whom have given up work for a few weeks so that they may give up their entire time to the organization, a number of shop chairmen with their workers have now offered to help the striking shops in their districts. Each morning, large numbers of workers report at 16 West 21st street, from where they are being sent out to take the place of the fatigued and frequently beaten-up men and women on the picket lines.

Two hundred and sixty-five shops have already been called out on strike by our committees. Of this number, 130 shops have already settled with the Union and their workers are back at the machines. Some of these shops are of special importance as they supply work to contractors, such as the Louis D. Seitz firm, and by settling with them we have automatically unionized all their contractor shops.

Naturally, not all the "open" shops are on strike yet. There are still several hundred "open" shops in operation not touched by our committees. The non-Union employers, taken by surprise in the first few weeks of the campaign, are better prepared now. The workers in the "open" shops are now being kept largely behind locked doors (which by the way exposes them to additional fire hazards). Some employers have also provided themselves with gangsters which makes the work of our volunteer organizers doubly difficult. The number of the striking shops keeps on increasing and the need for more pickets is growing ever greater. But we have faith in the loyalty and devotion of our workers and we are confident that they will in the end overcome all these difficulties.

A leaflet is being spread this week among all dressmakers calling upon them to do their share in this strike. Such of them as work in Union shops are being called upon to report all "open" shops of which they have any

knowledge, to come to the headquarters of the Union on West 21st street and help picket the strike-bound shops. Workers employed in non-Union shops are asked to report concerning it to the strike headquarters in Stuyvesant Casino, if possible together with their entire shops, without waiting for the visit of the volunteer committees. Union members working in "open" shops are also being warned that in case they fail to register with the Union, they will be held responsible for their acts.

I cannot help expressing my sincere satisfaction with the brotherly co-operation given us in this strike by the officers of the Joint Board, the locals and the members. Many business agents are getting in touch daily with their shops asking them to help in this organization drive. Some of these agents are now busily engaged in settling up with the struck firm, but by the beginning of next week we expect to have them back in the district and aiding us in further organizing activity.

That much for the present work. We do not, however, intend to give up the organization committee after this drive comes to an end. Quite the contrary. We are already preparing plans for regular and systematic activity along these lines all year around. But of this next week.

Relief for Political Prisoners in all Countries

Town Hall Meeting Announced for Monday, March 9

An effort to organize relief for political prisoners in all countries and to conduct international work for their release was announced yesterday by a newly formed committee known as the International Committee for Political Prisoners, with headquarters in New York City.

The committee is made up of representatives of minorities from eight of the countries with political prisoners, together with American liberals interested in furnishing relief and protesting against imprisonment for political views.

Complete information concerning the number and condition of political prisoners throughout the world, and the international channels through which relief can be given, is being gathered by the committee. Public meetings to organize the work are being planned for leading cities, with the first meeting in Town Hall, New York City, March 9.

Among those representing minorities attacked for their political views are Girolamo Valenti, secretary of the Italian Socialist Federation, and Arturo Giovannitti; Emil Lengyel, journalist, for Hungary; Pedro Esteve, editor of Cultura Obrera, for Spain; Henry Alsberg and B. Charney Vlaseck for Russia.

The announcement of the new committee says:

"This new work has been made necessary by the repeated appeals to friends of civil liberty to help the victims of political persecution in Europe. Those appeals naturally center in New York where there are so many friends of these political prisoners abroad, who already have sent them considerable relief.

"The committee will help all persons jailed for their views in all countries without emphasis on any particular country. We will cooperate with other agencies helping such prisoners anywhere. We will not aid those who we believe have taken part in political acts of violence."

Never in the Game



JUSTICE

A Labor Weekly

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EDITORIALS

THE UNION'S RIGHT TO SHOP CONTROL

Less than two weeks ago, the Board of Referees in the Cloak Industry of Cleveland, at a special hearing, listened to evidence presented to it by a cloak firm of that city in the form of an appeal from a decision of the impartial chairman in favor of the Union. It is an interesting case, of more than passing interest. We should like to discuss some of its features with our readers.

The cloak firm in question ordered some months ago, in its factory the transfer of the finishing of garments, until then made by skilled workers, to some semi-skilled girl workers. In this, the firm, of course, was actuated not by a desire to benefit the women workers of the factory but by motives of cheaper production. The Cleveland Union protested against this "reform," urging that the transfer of garment finishing from the experienced workers to the unskilled girls would, in the end, throw out a number of expert workers from the shop. The process of sectionalizing the garment, if undeterred, the Union argued, may eventually displace the skilled workers in the place by semi-skilled novices and would cast the former out into the streets to join the army of out-of-works.

The case, in due order, was presented by the Cleveland Joint Board to the impartial chairman, Dr. Jacob Hollander, who decided in favor of the Union. The chairman contended that the action of the firm was in violation of the clause in the collective agreement between the Union and the employer which specifies that the employers may not do anything which tends to weaken the Union and vice versa. Sectionalizing the work, and its inevitable results—the loss of employment by many members of the Union—is an action tending to weaken the workers' organization. The contention of the Union was therefore fully upheld.

The firm, nevertheless, remained dissatisfied with the decision of the impartial chairman and decided to appeal the case to a higher tribunal—the board of referees in the trade. A hearing on these contentions accordingly took place and a decision by the board inexpedient to be given out shortly. We are inclined to believe that the Union has a much stronger case than the firm. The humanitarian appeal is certainly on the side of the Union; yet, we must admit, that strong as this appeal is in itself, the argument of the Union would not be entirely incontestable were we to leave out of the reckoning another paramount right of the Union, its right, as a representative of the workers, to a measure of control of production in the shop.

This right to a share of control of production has not been strongly emphasized in the Labor movement until recent years. Trade unions would strive to increase earnings, to shorten hours of labor and to improve sanitary conditions in shops, but they were willing to leave every other phase of production control to the employer. In the last few years, however, with the broadening out of the trade union idea, there came forth the new conception that the worker is entitled to have his say regarding labor methods in production as well.

This new conception arose as the result of a number of causes. The spiritual and moral development of the workers is fast going away with the old conception of the laborer as a mere "hand," an idea which is becoming intolerable to the intelligent worker. Again, the workers are beginning to realize that without such a measure of control their hard-acquired gains can be easily reduced to nothing, whether in wages, hours or other acquisitions. Moreover, the workers are gradually acquiring a sense of responsibility for the conduct of industry and the standards that should prevail in it to the general public, the ultimate consumer of the articles they are engaged in producing. They are beginning to realize that they owe it to the consumer to produce a clean, wholesome product, without misrepresentation and unwarranted pretenses, and the trade unions to which they belong are beginning to interpret this new aspiration of the workers in terms of contractual guarantees.

It was on this ground, for instance, that our own International had demanded and succeeded in obtaining from the jobbers and manufacturers in the cloak and dress industry the right of registration of contractors and sub-manufacturers; the right of investigating the books of these employers in case of well-founded suspicion of violations of proper registry. And it is quite indicative of the new spirit of the times that instead of raising a cry heavenward in condemnation of these new demands, our employers have conceded them, for they know quite well that the public is beginning to realize that the cloak and the dress business is not the concern of the manufacturer alone, but of the workers as well; that both are equally responsible for it to the consumer.

And now let us go back to the Cleveland case which the local board of referees is now about to decide. We do not deny that the appellant firm had a right to produce its garments at as low a cost; but we maintain that the firm, in the case, as well as in any similar situation, is not the only party involved. The workers in the shops are just as keenly interested in it, and the manufacturer has exceeded his prerogatives when he decided to carry out his plan without first consulting the Union which is entitled to a measure of production control in the shop. This was an autocratic act, in violation of the spirit of the collective agreement between the firm and the Union and completely out of accord with the spirit of amicable relationship established by that pact.

The firm's argument, presented against the decision of the impartial chairman, Dr. Jacob Hollander, amounted to the following: If the introduction of new work leads to the weakening of the Union, a reduction of wages is likely to have the same effect; yet, the Board of Referees did not hesitate in a certain previous case to order such a reduction, without fearing that it might thereby violate the spirit of the agreement. This argument, however, while somewhat plausible on the surface, cannot stand the test of a fair analysis. In the wage cut case the reduction had been made not by the employer alone but it came as the result of the decision of a tribunal appointed by both sides, the employers and the workers. It was not the arbitrary act of one party, and while not entirely pleasing to workers, it was accepted by them in a fair, ungrumbling spirit. The decision of the Board of Referees, therefore, could not and did not have a weakening effect on the Union.

But, by having introduced the section system on its own accord, without first consulting any of the other parties in the industry, and to the agreement, the firm entirely disregarded the Union, and such an act can have no other but a baneful effect upon the workers and their organization. Such an act deliberately denies the Union its share of control of shop production, which is the very essence of its agreement with the employers.

This is, in our opinion, the main ground upon which the Cleveland Cloakmakers' Union bases its demand that the Cleveland cloak firm, if it is to retain its contractual relations with the Union, withdraw its order to transfer the coat lining from the expert workers to the inexperienced and unskilled girl workers. The principle involved, let it be remembered, is: The right of the Union to have a say in the control of work in the shop.

THE NEW CLOAK AGREEMENT IN CHICAGO

The agreement in the cloak industry in Chicago, just consummated after a series of peaceful conferences, is a very satisfactory industrial instrument from every point of view. Most of the points acquired by the New York cloakmakers through the mediation of the Governor's Commission have been incorporated in the Chicago agreement too. It is quite obvious, indeed, that the organization of the New York cloakmakers is fighting not only its own battles but, to an extent, the battles of the workers in every cloak market in the country. Once an improvement in labor conditions is adopted in New York, it is bound, sooner or later, to be introduced in other cities where cloaks are manufactured on a large scale—Chicago, Boston, Philadelphia, Cleveland, etc.

Which is but logical and inevitable. The reforms acquired by the workers in the New York market, indeed, could not endure if the other markets were allowed to go on manufacturing under the old standards. It would be unfair competition and would in the end undo the New York achievements. Our workers in the various cloak centers are therefore compelled by the logic of market relations to work hand in hand, in a spirit of mutuality and cooperation with the New York workers. New York, as a rule, blazes the way, but the New York acquisitions can be made permanent and durable only after they had been introduced in other cities and substantially along the same lines.

Of course, in this or that market there may be small deviations from the New York plan, in order to conform with special local conditions. In the main points, however, these modifications remain the same. Thus the new Chicago agreement calls for the introduction of a union hygiene fund, the sanitary union label, a joint board of sanitary control, and for an early investigation of the trade as a whole so as to acquire every fact of substance in the industry and with the aid of these facts to solve the problems that demand an early solution.

The cloakmakers of Chicago have every reason to greet the adoption of the new agreement. The minimum scales for most of the workers in the industry have been raised by it materially, and it has resulted in a better understanding between the employers in the trade and the workers.

All this has been acquired in a peaceful, democratic way. The Chicago cloakmakers have scored a very substantial victory by these trade improvements and they may look forward to greater acquisitions in the future, if they remain loyal and faithful to their Union and do not permit themselves to be distracted from their work by irrelevant and fantastic issues. Let them remember, above all, that their Union and its preservation and progress is their first and foremost duty. Then, our Chicago cloakmakers will not only be able to follow in the footsteps of their New York brethren, but to take the initiative and place themselves in the van of trade reforms in our industry.

EBERT AND BRANCKING

The Socialist world has lost in one week two great figures, Friedrich Ebert the first president of the German Republic, and

Medical Colleges and Labor Colleges

By A. J. MUSTE

Once upon a time there were no medical schools. When the family doctor got along in years or the community grew so rapidly that he could not attend all the families, he took a likely young fellow into his home, carried him about with him on his knees, and taught him what he knew about the delicate business of curing sick folk.

This old-fashioned practitioner did an immense amount of good to both the bodies and the souls of his patients. No one realized any more keenly, however, than the better ones among them how little they really knew about their business, how important it was to extend and organize and verify their knowledge of human ills and their cure. Such men carefully watched the course of diseases they sought to cure and checked up on their experiments. Some of them presently devoted all their time to study and experiment.

Thus there was gradually built up, in the first instance on the basis of the work of the honest, careful, for the most part untaught practitioner, a body of knowledge, increasingly broad and sure, about the treatment of disease. Then it was no longer considered enough for a young man to live in the old doctor's home and accompany him on his calls for a few months.

Medical schools were organized, in order that the body of knowledge and the technique which had been gradually developed might be passed on in the most efficient way to those who desired to become doctors. This does not mean that knowledge and wisdom were first born with the schools. The old practitioners had much of it on which the schools based. It does not mean that education began with the schools; there had been education ever since the "old doctor" passed his knowledge on to the "new doctor." It does not mean that the founding of medical schools and colleges was an insult to the old doctors who had no college training; on the contrary—it was the logical development of their own work and many of the best of them helped to bring it about. It is of course true that there were quacks as well as honest and intelligent practitioners in the old days; we are not by any means altogether rid of the former now—but to maintain the medical colleges have helped to establish a "professional standard" which is a real protection to the public if it cares to be protected. On the other hand, the young men graduating from medical colleges have learned the theory, are not turned out "full-fledged doctors." In clinics and by other means they have, first, to go through a lot of practical experience, fundamentally not so different per-

haps from that which in the days before the schools the older men who worked with them.

Even so once upon a time there were no law schools, no theological seminaries, no engineering colleges. The development which we have roughly outlined in the field of medicine has taken place in all the professions and technical callings. It is of special interest to Labor to observe that some such development is taking place in the realm of business right now. Business men have recently, for example, been willing to give Harvard University \$5,000,000 for a School of Business Administration!

ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WERE NO LABOR CLASSES AND COLLEGES. But in recent years we have seen a rapid development in this field. Some of the most outstanding Labor leaders have been foremost in supporting that development. Samuel Gompers has said that whatever gains Labor makes in the future must be based on education.

The moral is plain, is it not? Labor schools and colleges are organized in great measure in order that the technique and knowledge which has been developed by the Labor movement itself may be passed on in the most efficient way to those who are members or officers desire to serve that movement.

This does not mean that knowledge and wisdom about Labor and its problems are being born for the first time in Labor colleges, rather do the Labor colleges have to build on the knowledge and wisdom which the movement is carrying on in its daily work and struggle has developed.

It does not even mean that Labor education is first born with Labor colleges. There has been a lot of education going on in the movement all these years, but because of that very fact experience has been built up and this must now be imparted to the members of the movement in more formal, systematic and efficient fashion.

It does not mean that Labor colleges are an insult to the older leaders of the movement who never went to a "college"; on the contrary, Labor colleges build upon their hard-won experience and are the logical development of their work. The most prominent among them, like Samuel Gompers himself, are accordingly in the forefront of the Workers' Education movement. They rejoice that higher standards, "professional standards," if you please, are being established for the leadership of the Labor movement by the best of our secretaries, business agents, agitators, editors—or the great body of unpaid shop committee members, ex-

ecutive board members and local officials.

But neither should any over-ardent "graduates" of Labor classes or colleges get the notion that the Boston Trade Union College or the Philadelphia Labor College or Brookwood turns out "full-fledged Labor leaders." The "graduates" of Labor classes will have to serve their stern apprenticeship in the practical work of the movement, like the young medical

graduate serves his internship in hospital and clinic, and in that practical apprenticeship in the movement the young graduate will have his eyes opened to much that the Labor college never taught him; and doubtless in not a few cases the eye-opening will come from men who have much less "book-learning" than himself and whom in a careless moment he may have been tempted to look down upon.

The Labor education movement is here to stay, however. For Labor knows deep in its heart that only as its members and officers have the best possible Labor education can it meet its problems and fulfill its high destiny.—The Brookwood Review.

I. L. G. W. U. Officers Congratulate Debs On His 70th Birthday

On Friday evening, February 21, a great throng assembled in the spacious Ashland Auditorium in Chicago to pay a loving tribute and homage to that peerless orator and veteran Socialist leader, Eugene V. Debs, upon the event of his seventieth birthday. The great meeting was attended not only by masses of Chicago trade unionists and Socialists but by a large number of representatives of the Labor movement from the National Conference for Progressive Political Action.

I. L. G. W. U. Sends Message. The General Office of the International forwarded from New York to the Debs meeting the following telegram which was read by the chair-

man and received with warm acclaim: Mr. Eugene V. Debs, Ashland Auditorium, Chicago, Ill.

Accept our heartiest congratulations on your seventieth birthday. Your years of activity for the cause of freedom, justice and happiness for the oppressed stand as a beacon light in the progress of all humanity. We know your spirit is as young, as forceful and as ready as ever, and it is our hope that you may be preserved for many years to the sacred cause you have so faithfully served.

MORRIS SIMMAN, President. ABRAHAM BAROFF, Sec'y. Int. Ladies' Garment Wks. Union.

Unconstitutional

By MAURINE H. M'GEE

In mills and mines and factories,
In fields and in dark tenements
The poor little children
(Who never will be young)
In poverty and weariness,
In squalor and in dreariness
Drag out their sorry little lives
From which all joy is wrong.

Because the laws that gave them joy
And play as their inheritance,
That made all children heirs of light
Have now been set aside

And called unconstitutional,
And with this word, their youth and all

The childish hopes they may have had
For better things have died.

No play, no rest, no school for them,
No learning's tapers burn for them
By which they might improve their place

Within the commonweal,
For tardy justices have set

Their pleas aside and said, "Not yet
Is time to draw their bodies from
Industry's cruel wheel."

Have we forgotten how we cried,
Have we forgotten how we tried,
To save these very little ones
From whom we turn away;
Unwittingly we let this shame
Steal back to blot our country's name—

But oh the monster, Greed-for-Gold,
Was watching every day.

And yet, I think, nor else can think,
The very man who buys their blood,
The very owner of the mine,
The master of the mill,

Would not twist little children's bones,
Or cut the tender flesh with stones;
He would not do so with his hands
But does it with his will.

The world is safe for men of might,
The world is safe for men of greed,
The world is safe for those who trade
Exile values for the true;

Oh, Statesmen, you have failed your trust
Unless you frame, too strong for lust
A law that makes our country safe
For little children, too.

Hjalmar Branting, the Socialist chieftain and Prime Minister of Sweden.

Fritz Ebert was a child of the work-people of Germany. Yet he succeeded in rising to the highest post in the public life of Germany during one of its most distressing periods, during years of fratricide and endless suffering and turmoil. He stayed at the helm of Germany for six years during the most trying period of its history. This alone speaks volumes for the remarkable character of the child of the common people. Great is the nation which made it possible for one of its humblest citizens to rise to such a height, and great, indeed, is the Socialist faith, the faith of true democracy and fraternity, in which Ebert had been raised.

We did not and could not, of course, agree with everything Ebert had done or believed in during his lifetime. This, however, does not detract one iota from our recognition of his great gifts and idealism, his tact and consistency, justly admired by friends and foes. Fritz Ebert, the German socialdemocrat, has made himself immortal, and as long as the German Republic will live—the free German Socialist Republic in the near future, let us hope—the name of Ebert who by his inexhaustible energy had led Germany through the most difficult six years of its existence, will be remembered with love and respect not only by the Ger-

man people but by liberty-loving men and women throughout the world.

Hjalmar Branting, by birth and breeding, was an aristocrat, born with a golden spoon in his mouth, so to say. Branting, however, was one of those rare men who could not live in luxury while millions about him were in want and misery. With all the fire of his great soul, Branting made the cause of the lowly and downtrodden his own cause. From his early days, Branting stirred the spirit of resistance among the enslaved and submerged and preached to them the gospel of liberation. No amount of persecution ever succeeded in breaking down his spirit. Undaunted he followed his life work and his mission until he came out victorious. Branting, the rebel, six times imprisoned for his beliefs and his leadership of the workers of Sweden, lived to become the most beloved and respected citizen of his country and many times its Prime Minister. Moreover, he had built up a strong, powerful Socialist movement in Sweden, and in the course of years became one of the most outstanding international figures.

Ebert and Branting are dead. Their spirit, however, lives, and the cause to which they dedicated their lives is no less alive. Their life work and stupendous achievements has secured for them an unchallenged place among the world's great immortals.



IN THE REALM OF BOOKS

The Labor Press for January and February

By SYLVIA KOPFALD

When great events stir the Labor movement, its press acquires a singleness of tone which is of the essence of unity. The opening of a new year saw the ending of a significant chapter in American Labor history. Samuel Gompers had died. William Green had been chosen to succeed him as President of the American Federation of Labor. The El Paso Convention of the Federation had seen both the formal inauguration of union between Mexican and American workers and the old chief's leave-taking of the movement he had led for almost a half century. Little wonder the first issues of Labor's Journal greeted the New Year in solemn tones. Little wonder matters of industrial struggle, other internal affairs and world affairs, disappeared in the shadow of these momentous happenings thrown after them. With the subsequent issues of the journals, current activities resumed their normal places, but transition is even yet in the air.

Gompers Is Dead

Practically every issue of the Labor press participated during January in the movement's freighted, emotion-laden farewell to the departed leader. To quote from all the journals their Gompers' pages and paragraphs would be to present the January Press. To quote from some of them is to mirror that press with fair completeness.

The *International Moulders' Journal* gave its first pages to Miss Rose Le Guard's tribute to her chief, with whom she had worked for some twenty-five years. The moving testimonial she pens to him was conceived obviously in the sorrow of a friend as well as the admiration of a co-worker. Other journals also carried Miss Le Guard's tribute. *The Moulders' Journal* presented in addition Chester Wright's story of Gompers' last days and John P. Frey's interpretation of those same stirring moments. A picture of Gompers and a "rank-and-file's" poem to him completed the moulder's printed offering to his memory.

The *Lithographers' Journal* also gave its front pages to a tribute to the "silent leader" with this concluding exhortation: "December the 18th, 1924, the day on which the living multitude departed from their dead friend, will go down into history as the birth of a new era. To that end, let Labor unite; it will be the grandest monument it can possibly erect in honor to Samuel Gompers." The *Journeyman Barber* recorded that uncanonized presentment which motivated Gompers' last appearance at a convention, that struck so many others: "Events of recent months made me keenly aware," said the president, "that the time is not far distant when I must lay down my trust for others to carry forward. When one comes to close grips with the eternal things, there come a new sense of relative values and the less worthy things lose significance." The *Signalman's Journal* features, too, this last message of Gompers, with a view of his life, and cries across the vast silences to him who has gone, "We Will Keep the Faith." And from Canada, the Canadian workers add their voices to the chorus of farewell. *Canadian Congress Journal*, official organ of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, makes Gompers' last exhortation to the workers its cover-sheet and the

story of William Green, "new President of the American Federation of Labor," its feature story. And, of course, *The Cigar Makers' Journal*, organ of the union from which Gompers came to the movement, devotes a large part of its issue to tributes and recollections. President Perkins pens his "Recollections and Tribute to a Friend," the International Executive Board offers the leave-taking of associates, and *The New Guard's* testimonial printed for the journal's readers.

And so to the end.

The El Paso Convention

Naturally enough, the *El Paso Convention* took second place in the journal columns. Federation conventions are "always" important; there, policies and leaders are formally decided upon for the coming year. But in many ways this was a historic conference. International Labor delegates from Germany for the first time attended the conference sessions. Labor delegates from Canada and Britain were also present; and all clasped hands with American and Canadian delegates in significant ceremony. And Samuel Gompers officiated for the last time. Yet we must not let these stirring emotional events dim for us the decisions taken by the conference. It is important for us to know these accepted policies, for the future activity of the Federation will be guided by them. The *American Federationist* prints in full the report of the Executive Council where these policies are fully outlined and argued in presentation.

What the Convention "Legislated"

The outstanding policies, in addition to international workers' cooperation, offered to the convention were the following: The Federation reasserted its

1. Non-partisan political program, refusing definite affiliation with any third party venture and determining to continue its support of friends and punishment of enemies at election time.

2. Opposition to the Railroad Labor Act and demand for the passage of the Howell-Barkey Act.

3. Indorsement of the workers' education movement and the Workers' Education Bureau, with a significant additional recommendation to its affiliated bodies for their definite financial support of the Bureau. (See below.)

4. Position that "Industry must cure its own ills" through industrial democracy. It urged a study of cooperation.

5. Disapproval of relations with Soviet Russia "until the Russian people have a democratic government of their own."

6. Insistence upon the maintenance of a living wage and "American standards of living."

7. Belief in the efficacy of the principles of trade union activity typified by Mr. Gompers' philosophy and the Federation's history thus far.

The Federation recommended:

1. The formation of a Labor Insurance Company.

2. The restriction of the veto power of the Supreme Court.

3. Caution in the further extension of Labor banks.

4. A new trial for Sacco and Vanzetti.

5. A pardon for Tom Mooney.

6. Full support of the Labor Press by the Trade Union membership.

In reporting the Convention's sessions, the Labor Journals, as a whole, indorse this program heartily. They differ somewhat in the emphasis they give to various items in it. Several of them are especially interested in the cooperative insurance scheme and others comment upon the moving incident that followed President Gompers' presentation of a Gompers' bust to the convention.

And the Run of Things

Men may come and men may go—even the greatest of them—and conventions, too; but the movement goes on forever. Thus it is that the run of things is emerging again and the journals chronicle current affairs once more. There is both pain and comfort in the chronicle; such has ever been Labor's way.

The Child Labor Amendment

Perhaps the saddest item in the current flow is the temporary defeat of the Child Labor Amendment. Organized Labor has given so much energy to the campaign seeking to free children from the mines and mills that the campaign of misrepresentation suddenly set loose upon the amendment by Sentinels of the Republic, Woman Patriots, hundred per centers, anti-Bolsheviks, anti-Prohibitionists, etc., and the opposition of State's rights proponents, Catholics, Jeffersonian Democrats and the rest, must have come with a startling shock to them. "Assuredly the issue must have been clear. But no; the amendment has been rejected for the present and Congress denied the power to help control industrial child labor in the name of the home, Americanism, patriotism, democracy and Simon-purism."

As one reviews the persuasive arguments reiterated in the journals the outcome becomes the more striking. "The International Brotherhood of Blacksmiths," *Drap Fargers* and *Hilliers' Bi-Monthly Journal*, the *Illinois Weekly News-Letter*, the *American Federation of Labor Weekly News-Letter*, *The Cigar Makers' Journal*, the *Industrial Weekly*, Labor, and many others present once again, and yet once again, the reasons why

Congress should be given the power to help regulate child labor in industry. They restate the issue. "The Shoe Workers' Journal" outlines "The Shame of Massachusetts." Children still labor in factories, mines and mills.

Company Unionism

On the other hand, company unionism has received several set-backs. A series of reports have been issued by the Russell Sage Foundation which prove, after a five-years' investigation, that no local unit can by itself set standards for industries which are national in scope. Summaries of and comments upon the findings as a whole have been made by the *Machinists' Monthly Journal*, Labor, the *United Mine Workers' Journal*, the *American Federation of Labor Weekly News-Letter*, and many others. At the same time, the *Railway Maintenance-of-Way Employers' Journal* records figures made public by the Railroad Labor Board. These show that the telegraphers in the employ of the Pennsylvania Railroad rejected the "Company Union" by a vote of more than 13 to 1 (4,258 to 318).

Workers' Education

And the work of educating trade union members continues in its heartening spread. Various journals are printing the outlines on economics sent out by the Workers' Education Bureau. The *Lithographers' Journal*, the *Signalman's Journal*, the *Journal of Electrical Workers* and the *Seamens' Journal*, among others, are running regularly such outlines. Now that the convention of the American Federation of Labor has recommended financial support of the Bureau to its unions (one-half cent per member per annum and one dollar per local), such work and the rest of the Bureau's program will be extended. The *Industrial Weekly*, the *American Federation of Labor News-Letter* and the *Machinists' Journal* carry educational articles by our vice-president, Fannie M. Cohn.

And thus a new year, a new month and a new epoch unfolds in Labor's camp.

THE OLD MANAGER SPEAKS

By BERTON BRALEY

I've handled a pick and a shovel,
I've sat at a bench in my time,
I've done heavy work in the heat and the murk,
I've known all the sweat and the grime;
And so, when some frosty-eyed expert
Talks "Labor" as if it was coal,
"A commodity"—well, I just choke for a spell
Before I regain my control.

Plague take all this dope economic
That plans human toil in its charts,
I tell you that "Labor's" your friends and your neighbors,
It's folks that have bodies and hearts.
It's fathers and brothers and husbands
With mothers and sweethearts and wives,
Who love and who hate and who dream and who wait.
It's real people living their lives.

Now maybe I'm moss-backed and rusty,
But here's how it lines up to me;
Statistics will aid in the plan you have made
They're useful to quite a degree,
But all of your lore scientific
Will fall down again and again,
Unless in your brain this one fact you retain,
That "Labor" means flesh-and-blood Men.

In brief, it's a problem that's Human,
No soulless "Commodity" stuff,
And the very best plan I have happened to scan
Is just to be human enough;
And when it is finally settled
(I fear I won't be here by then),
It won't be by art of a book or a chart,
But by Men dealing fairly with Men.

—Forbes Magazine.



LABOR THE WORLD OVER

DOMESTIC ITEMS

War Fraud Cases Fall

The Government has waived its policy of convicting business men charged with war fraud. The three-year statute of limitation was extended three years ago. With this statute lapsed on war crimes, Department of Justice officials find that the Government has obtained two convictions, including one plea of guilty, out of the mass of sensational testimony and findings turned over by the Graham investigating committee four years ago. The Department of Justice will now institute civil proceedings, and has secured an additional appropriation of \$1,000,000 for that purpose.

The collapse of the criminal proceedings mark the end of Attorney General Daugherty's war fraud bureau which was established for the purpose of convicting war profiteers.

Leather Workers' Unity Plan Succeeds

Progress is being made by the United Leather Workers' International Union in their organizing campaign. General President Bryan has assisted in organizing more than one-half of the workers engaged in the fancy leather goods trade in Chicago. These workers produce ladies' handbags, bill folds, pocket books and similar articles. Another gain in that city was the recent affiliation of a union that has remained independent for six years.

Officers of this International Union suggest that trade unionists in other callings can assist this organizing campaign. The union has jurisdiction over the leather working industries, except boot and shoe workers and glove makers. Most of these workers are engaged in the harness and saddle, travelers' goods, leather novelty and the tanning industries.

Coal Owners' Things Getting Conceded

With former Sheriff Don Chafin in the Atlanta pen, because of bootlegging, and Federal authorities rounding up many of his pals, the life of gunmen and private detectives in this country is no longer one continuous round of pleasure.

The latest to feel the iron hand of Uncle Sam is Deputy Sheriff Mitt Privett and three fellow thugs who are charged with conspiracy to intimidate a Federal witness. They are held in bail aggregating half a million dollars. Privett gasped when Commissioner Hager told him he would have to stay in jail unless he could furnish a \$200,000 bond.

Pan-American Union Headed By William Green

President Green of the A. F. of L. was elected chairman of the Pan-American Federation of Labor at a meeting of representatives of that organization, held in the A. F. of L. building in Washington, D. C. Mr. Green succeeds the late Samuel Gompers, who organized the Pan-American and was its first executive.

Delegates present included Matthew Woll and Frank Morrison, vice-president and secretary of the A. F. of L.; Santiago Iglesias, president of the Free Federation of Workmen of Porto Rico; Luis Marino, organized Labor, Havana, Cuba; R. A. Delgado Carbonell and Manuel Morillo, Federation of Labor, San Domingo; B. Suarez and L. Munoz Marin, Venezuelan Labor Union.

Farmers' Income Drop

The average labor income of farmers in the State of New York was \$453 in 1914 and \$295 in 1923, according to the Monthly Labor Review, published by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics.

By labor income is meant the amount the farmer receives for his year's work above all farm expenses, including interest on the capital invested and in addition to the use of his house and farm products.

The difference between earnings in 1914 and 1923 amounted to a reduction of 55 per cent in actual money and of approximately 70 per cent in the purchasing power of the income.

Wholesale Prices Up

The upward swing of wholesale prices which has been in progress since June, 1924, continued through January, according to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The bureau's weighted index number rose to 160 for January, compared with 157 for December and 144.6 for June, last year.

There was an increase of almost 2 per cent in the retail cost of food in January, this year. The index number was 154.3, as against 151.5 in December.

Old-Age Pensions Is Urged By Labor

The Pennsylvania State Federation of Labor has circulated Pennsylvania trade unionists in behalf of the old-age assistance law, which has been declared unconstitutional by the State Supreme Court.

The court upheld a decision by the Dauphin county court that old-age pensions is a charity. In their statement to affiliates, officers of the State Federation of Labor say:

"The judges who have declared that the old-age assistance law is in violation of the constitution of our State, because the payment of pensions to aged workers would be a charitable purpose, do not consider it a charitable purpose when they accept 50 per cent of their salaries upon retirement, after having been paid from \$10,000 to \$17,500 yearly. To them it is a compensation for the hazard of long-continued public service.

"During the two years the old-age assistance commission has been organized, it has received nearly 5,000 applications from persons over 70 years of age, who are partially, or totally, dependent on charity for their existence. The decision of the courts robbed them of the meager assistance of \$30 a month, which was provided for in the law."

FOREIGN ITEMS

GERMANY

In Favor of Vacations for Young Workers

On January 20, the National Committee of the various German Youth Associations met at Berlin, and gave some attention to the question of the holidays of the working-class youth. After an introductory speech by Knoll, the secretary of the German Trades Union Congress, the subject was exhaustively discussed by the representatives of all the chief German Youth organizations, and the following resolution was passed:

"The Committee of the German Youth Associations considers that the introduction of holidays for young people working for wages is an urgent necessity.

"The Committee of the German Youth organizations therefore asks the German Government to introduce as soon as possible a bill providing for three weeks of paid holidays for all young people working for wages under 16 years of age and two weeks of paid holidays for all young people working for wages between 16 and 18 years of age."

The German Trade Unions and the Republic

The growing fierceness of the attacks of the Parties of the Right in Germany on the republican form of government has caused the German Trades Union Congress to issue an appeal to the German working class, calling upon them to show the bloc of the Nationalists and their allies that all endeavors to overthrow the Republic will fail when opposed by the united will of the organized workers.

INDIA

The Indian Trades Union Congress

The All-India Trade Union Congress of India will hold its congress at Parel, Bombay, at the end of March next. It is uncertain exactly how many unions are connected loosely with the Trades Union Congress, in addition to the number which has so far officially affiliated and paid fees, and which is comparatively few, comprising only eight unions, most of which belong to Calcutta or Bombay.

An earnest appeal is made in "The All-India Trade Union Bulletin" of December last for the affiliation of more unions. The All-India T. U. C. has drawn up a new constitution, a copy of which it has sent to all the unions of the country, so that an energetic attempt is evidently being made to create a genuine national federation of trade unions on a bona-fide trade union basis.

In addition to the All-India Trade Union Congress, there exists another body, "The Labor League of India" of Calcutta, which, however, admits "persons who are interlinked in Labor" besides the affiliated unions. At the beginning of 1924 the Labor League of India comprised eleven unions.

ENGLAND

Towards the Co-ordination of Industrial Disputes

There is a distinct movement in the British trade union world in favor of co-ordinating industrial disputes. Both miners and engineers have recently held mass meetings which have passed resolutions for common action through the General Council of the T. U. C. in case of industrial disputes involving one of them; and many railwaymen are also in favor of the principle.

The mass meetings of the engineers and miners differ somewhat as to the best methods of pursuing this end; the engineers want united action before the negotiations actually begin. Mr. A. J. Cook, Secretary of the British Miners' Federation, has already written to the engineering unions, the transport workers and the railwaymen to discuss possible action to secure the various wage demands.

ITALY

Appeal of the Italian Trade Union Centre

In accordance with a resolution of its congress at Milan, the Executive of the Italian Confederation of Labor has issued an appeal to the Italian workers, calling attention to the reactionary action of the Fascist Government in general, and in particular, to the most complete suppression of the freedom of the press, the bad economic position, the discrimination in favor of the capitalist class, and various fresh acts of violence. Amongst the last-named are the destruction of the offices of the trades councils of Bologna and Reggio (Emilia), and the premises of the railwaymen's union; the dissolution of the trade union organizations in Bologna, Brescia, Modena, Trieste, Palermo and Cattania; the closing of the offices of the wood-workers' union; raids on the premises of other organizations and threats of comrades actively engaged in trade union work.

The Executive is well aware that no representations to the Fascist authorities will be of the slightest use, but nevertheless thinks it desirable to call public attention to the above facts. In conclusion it calls upon the workers to cooperate in the reconstruction of the trade union movement, no matter what obstacles are placed in the way or to what persecutions the champions of trade unionism are exposed.

MEXICO

Labor and Capital in Mexico

In view of the numerous Labor conflicts which occur in Mexico, many of which are due to the fact that the trade unions are frequently merely local, conferences will be held in Mexico City from April 1st onward, to discuss the demands of the workers in specific industries, and thus provide a common basis for negotiations with the employers.

The first meeting of the kind will be a congress of textile-workers, which will deal chiefly with wages, which are especially low for this branch of industry. It is to be hoped that these congresses will forge closer links between the workers of the same industries.



EDUCATIONAL COMMENT AND NOTES



Reunion of Students and Teachers of the I. L. G. W. U. Classes Sat'y, March 28

Reservations can already be made for the yearly reunion of the students and instructors of the I. L. G. W. U. classes which will be held in the dining room and gymnasium of Washington Irving High School on Saturday, March 28, at 7 P. M.

To this affair are invited past and present students of our numerous classes with their friends, members of our faculty and officers of the Union.

The Students' Council, which is composed of representatives of our numerous classes, and under whose auspices this affair is being arranged, has appointed a committee on arrangements. This committee is sparing no effort to make this affair a

memorable one, and to afford our members an opportunity to spend a few hours in sociability and good fellowship. They will provide delicious eats, a musical program and dancing.

To defray some of the expenditures the committee has decided to charge 35 cents admission. Tickets can be obtained from the members of the Students' Council and from the Educational Department, 3 West 16th street, either in person or by writing. As in previous years it is expected that many more will apply or reservations than the capacity of the dining-room, and therefore, preference will be given to past and present students for the time being.

The Child Labor Amendment and Public Opinion

Lecture by Dr. Sylvia Kopold in our Workers' University, Saturday afternoon, March 14.

Dr. Sylvia Kopold will discuss the Child Labor Amendment and Public Opinion on Saturday, March 14, at 2:30 p. m., in the Workers' University, Washington Irving High School, Room 530.

Child labor and the proposed 20th Amendment to abolish it is of paramount importance to the Labor movement in particular and the country in general. It is being discussed now throughout the country.

The public is confused on this issue. Certain interested groups in society are confusing the minds of the people by interpreting the 20th Amendment as being opposed to the family, personal freedom and many other platitudes.

It is important that our members be informed on this problem, and this is the purpose of this lecture.

I. L. G. W. U. Chorus Concert in Town Hall, Saturday, March 21

The I. L. G. W. U. chorus of 100 voices, under the direction of Leo Lew, will give its spring concert in Town Hall, on Saturday evening, March 21.

The chorus will be assisted by a

famous singer and violinist.

By special arrangement, our Educational Department has obtained a number of tickets which we will sell to our members at reduced prices.

Company Unions—The Rockefeller Plan

A Lecture by Ben Selekman in Our Workers' University, Washington Irving High School, This Saturday Afternoon

Mr. Ben Selekman will lecture on "Company Unions—The Rockefeller Plan," this Saturday, March 7, at 2:30 p. m., in Washington Irving High School, Room 530.

Mr. Selekman made the investiga-

tion of the Rockefeller Plan for the Russell Sage Foundation, and the book of his findings has just appeared and has called forth an interest throughout the country.

Admission will be by tickets only which can be obtained at the office of Local 41.

This will be an evening of sociability and good fellowship.

**LECTURE FOR THE WIVES OF OUR MEMBERS—THE
BRONX, FRIDAY EVENING, MARCH 13**

In the Club Rooms of Local 2, 1551 Washington avenue, Bronx, on Friday, March 13, a lecture will be given for the wives of our members residing in that section.

The subject and name of the lecturer will be announced next week.

DANCE AND SOCIABLE BY TUCKERS, FLEATERS AND HEMSTITCHERS' UNION, LOCAL 41

Saturday Evening, March 14

In the I. L. G. W. U. Building, 3 West 16th street, on Saturday evening, March 14, a Dance and Sociable arranged by the Tuckers, Fleaters and Hemstitchers' Union, Local 41, will be held.

The program for the evening will be refreshments, dancing and a short talk by a representative of the Educational Department of the International.

WORKERS' UNIVERSITY

Washington Irving High School
Irving Place and 16th St.
Room 530

Saturday, March 7

1:30 p. m. R. J. R. Stolger—Clear Voices in English and American Literature—Morris Carlyle and Ruskin—Socialists of Mind and Form.

2:30 p. m. Ben Selekman—Rockefeller Plan—Company Unions.

Sunday, March 8

10:30 a. m. Arthur W. Calhoun—Economic Psychology and Economic Qualities of Modern Man.

11:30 a. m. H. J. Carman—The Industrial Development of Modern Society: Results of the Industrial Revolution.

Saturday, March 14

2:30 p. m. Dr. Sylvia Kopold—The Child Labor Amendment and Public Opinion.

INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' BUILDING

3 West 16th Street
Wednesday, March 11

6:30 p. m.—A. Fichandler—Economic Basis of Modern Society—Mining.

UNITY CENTERS

Tuesday, March 10

Bronx Unity Center—P. S. 61
Crotona Park East and Charlotte Street
6:45 p. m. Theresa Wolfson—Woman's Auxiliary.

Wednesday, March 11

East Side Unity Center—P. S. 63

Fourth Street near First Avenue
8:45 p. m. A. L. Wilbert—Social and Economic Forces in American History: Natural Resources—Forest, Mine and Power Resources.

EXTENSION DIVISION

YIDDISH

Friday, March 6

Local 2 Club Rooms—1581 Washington Avenue, Bronx
8 p. m. Dr. I. Galdston—The Common Sense of Health Conservation.

Sunday, March 8

Local 2 Club Rooms—1581 Washington Avenue, Bronx
11:00 a. m. H. Rogoff—Civilization in America.

Friday, March 13

Local 2 Club Rooms
8 p. m. Why the Wives of Our Members Should Study the Labor Movement—Lecturer to be announced.

Friday, March 20

Beethoven Hall—210 East 5th Street
8:00 p. m. Max Levin—The Industrial Development of Modern Society.

Saturday, March 7 and 14

Local 9 Building—67 Lexington Avenue
1:00 p. m. H. Rogoff—American Civilization.

Sunday, March 8

Cloak Operators' Centre—1629 Lexington Avenue
10:30 a. m. Max Levin—Industrial Development of Modern Society.

Friday, March 6

Russian-Polish Branch—315 East 10th Street
7:30 p. m. K. M. Oberucheff—Psychology of the Labor Movement.

Thursday, March 12

Brownsville Labor Lyceum—Room 301
7:30 p. m. Alexander Fichandler will start a course of six lessons on "The Economic Basis of Modern Society." The topic of the first lesson will be "Mining."

Saturday, March 21

8 p. m. Concert in Town Hall, arranged by the Chorus of the International. Detailed announcement later.

Saturday, March 28

7 p. m. Students' Get-together in Washington Irving High School Dining Room. Refreshments, Dancing. Admission 25 Cents.

Label Custodians Receive Rules and Regulations

B. OTAEAE.

В мастерской, с занятыми местами, сызрочная работа не должна превышать одного часа в день и 5-ти часов в неделю.

gument in favor of a change in Massachusetts. The present 48-hour law was adopted in 1919, and has been unsuccessfully attacked every year since.

- И. Шевченко, секретар

- Phone Plaza 1674
Street New York City



The Week In Local 10

By SAM B. SHENKER

The week just passed saw no change worth speaking of as regards the work in the cloak industry. The cutters in this industry continue working and the beginning of the week found jobs on hand in the office.

The settlement and organization committees appointed by the Joint Board for the purpose of renewing the agreements with Independent employers and organizing open shops are still hard at their tasks.

The strike in their miscellaneous trades has simmered down to a strike against the firms who are members of the Association. Less than twelve shops manufacturing children's dresses, bath-ropes and house dresses, are still out. The great majority of the firms manufacturing these garments have settled. Practically all of the Independent firms manufacturing underwear have also settled. This left, during the early part of this week, the workers of the employers who are members of the association, practically the only ones out. A conference took place last Tuesday, but the result was not known at time of going to press.

Preparing for Black Season Control

The fact that the season is on and that there are jobs on hand to care for any unemployed men is not stopping Manager Dubinsky from making preparations for the regular black season control. In fact, were it not for the demand for men, the manager would already have assigned a staff for a control of shops.

Every day brings in a batch of settled dress shops. A good many of these bear the notation that no cutter was employed by a firm at the time of settlement and the office is required to send a cutter. These firms while operating as open shops did their own cutting. And it is this class of shops that requires most watching.

There is also on record in the office a list of cloak shops that are closely watched every season. Because the necessary number of men are not right now available for controlling purposes, the manager contents himself with Saturday afternoon and Sunday investigation of these shops.

However, the important controlling is in the black season. And as soon as work slows up, a number of men will at once be assigned to this task. Most of this work will center itself about the newly organized dress shops. These employers probably labor under the impression that the Union is only anxious to enter into contractual relations with them and that its work stops right there. In this they will find soon enough that they are mistaken.

Dress Settlement Continues

Settlements with the Independent employers in the dress industry did not diminish in spite of the fact that it is nearly three weeks since this work was undertaken. This is largely due to the fact that the union is taking additional precautions against violation by insisting upon a larger amount of security than was heretofore demanded.

The great majority of the firms appearing at settlement headquarters are contractors. Considerable difficulty was had with many of the firms during the past two years. Very often the Union was compelled to declare strikes against firms for failure to comply with union standards. The threat to forfeit security had no effect, since the amounts were not big, and only a strike could right many of the wrongs practiced by the small firms.

For this reason, therefore, the business agents in charge of settling shops are compelled to spend a good deal of time pointing to the reasons which demand more security. In

many instances strikes have to be declared. Only after the strike lasts for a few days is a firm against whom such action has been taken convinced that the Union means business. These firms then come for a second time before the settlement committee, which takes up a good deal of time and repeats the work.

In spite of the fact that the Joint Board's organization department for the dress industry continued without interruption for the past year or so, the number of open shops declared on strike is enormous. Up to the present time over 7,000 workers were called out.

The bulk of this number of workers are already back at work, their employers having agreed to settlement requirements as soon as their workers were called out. Being contractors they can ill afford to lose the season. However, the great majority of the workers who have invariably been for union jobs. As soon as the Union stops a shop dealing with a union jobber, he is informed to discontinue giving work to the non-union shop. This, as may be easily seen, expedites matters.

Joint Board To Appoint Dress Division Staff

The failure on the part of the dress-makers' local to conduct "self education" to the proper limits of a Labor organization led Israel Feinberg, secretary of the Joint Board, to call off the election of trustees to form the dress department of the Joint Board.

On the eve of election of business agents and district managers by the members of the locals affiliated with the Joint Board a leaflet was issued in which officers of many years' standing, against whom no charge has ever been made, were shamefully slandered. When Feinberg reported this to the Board of Directors, he pointed out that the leaflet was issued by a group designating themselves as a section of the Trade Union Educational League.

The leaflet contained the names of several officers, many of whom, aged in the service of the Union and gave up much for the upbuilding of the Union. After the leaflet was publicly branded, the members who received the leaflets by mail in their shops, were urged not to vote for them.

The manager of the Joint Board said that he appeared before the Executive Committee of the Dress-makers' Union, Local 22, and asked them to sign a statement condemning this action by the authors of the leaflet. This the local's executive committee refused to do.

Feinberg then recommended that the Board of Directors call off the election. This was done, and at a subsequent meeting it was decided that the staff of business agents and manager for the dress division be appointed.

No obstacles were found in the election of district managers and business agents for the cloak division. The election for this division went off smoothly. Were it not for the fact that the Joint Board had voted for a separate ballot for the two divisions, the elections for the cloak branch might have also been called off.

According to the quota assigned to Local 10, five business agents were to be elected for the cutters. Isidore Nagler and Benjamin Sachs are two for the cloak division. They did not appear on the ballot since there was no contest. Samuel Perlmuter was elected as Manager of the downtown office of the Joint Board. His name also did not appear on the ballot since there was no opposition to him. This leaves two more business agents as the balance of Local 10's

quota to be designated. Two business agents, Brothers David Fruhling and John W. Settle, are at present serving and will in all likelihood be re-appointed. This is practically assured, because when applications were filed before the objection committee no new candidates appeared.

Resigns After 14 Years of Service

No doubt the reader has asked himself by this time why it is that Julius Bender's name is not mentioned. No doubt it will astonish him, as it has astonished many active members in close contact with the office, when he is told that Bender resigned.

A day or two before the election was to take place Julius Bender tendered his resignation to the Joint Board through its manager. In his letter he said that it was owing to the reorganization of the Joint Board, as a result of which the staff was considerably cut, that he did not feel inclined to enter into a contract with his co-workers.

He pointed, in his letter, with pride to his fourteen years of consecutive service in the Union. During this time, he said, he enjoyed the confidence of the membership, which was Bender's always being re-elected. However, he felt it understood that his resignation does not mean that he withdraws from activity.

When Manager Dubinsky brought this matter up before the Executive Board of Local 10, a deep silence fell on the members. That they were affected by the news was evident; for many members remembered that Bender's activity began in 1888. Of course, in view of all this, the Joint Board could not just stop with the acceptance of the resignation. A committee was appointed for the purpose of arranging the tendering to Brother Bender of a suitable token of appreciation.

Situation in Miscellaneous Trades' Strike

As was stated above, the general strike in the Miscellaneous trades has considerably diminished. The Independent underwear manufacturers are nearly all signed up. Last Monday the last of the large shops signed up. By the beginning of next week the majority of the twelve shops or so in the house-dress, bath-ropes and children's dress manufacturers are expected also to settle.

Cutters' Strike Headquarters Moved

Because of the many settlements affected, the strike committee gave up Arlington Hall, and the cutters now meet in Manhattan Lyceum, 66 East 4th street. Brother Philip Hanel is in charge of the cutters. From now on and for the duration of the strike the cutters will meet daily and report for roll-call in this hall.

Some Interesting Executive Board Cases

It would surprise the membership a good deal to learn that Brothers Sam Schultz and Philip Hanel were nearly arrested on the charge of highway robbery.

The two were assigned by Manager Dubinsky to investigate certain shops, the cutters of which were suspected of working after regular hours. One shop suspected was a dress house in which Sam Goldstein, ledger No. 5490, was employed. As they entered the elevator in the building at No. 150 West 22nd street, they saw the cutter trying to hide from them as the elevator reached the main floor. This was on a Saturday afternoon three weeks ago at about 2:30 o'clock.

He could not give a satisfactory reason for his being there and was therefore asked by the committee to accompany them to the office. As it was late Saturday afternoon the committee was anxious to reach the office before closing and requested Goldstein to go to the office with them and hailed a taxi for the purpose.

As the cab started the office, Goldstein suddenly shut his head out and began shouting "Police! Holdup! Murder." Of course they were apprehended very shortly and taken to the police station. Hanel had little difficulty in identifying himself as an officer of the Union. For a time, however, it seemed as though Goldstein would succeed in causing considerable damage. When he was called to the Executive Board, the double charge of being in the shop on a Saturday and with trying to frame the committee, he pleaded that he lost himself and did not know what he was doing. In addition to the fine imposed upon him he was also kept out of the shop for three days.

Working for an employer who is a member of the Protective Association long ago passed that violation. On the other hand, too are uncharted; there have been cases when it took a little longer to "catch members with the goods" in such shops. But eventually the guilty were apprehended.

It was long suspected that some of the cutters of the P. S. L. of 243 Seventh avenue, were working on Saturday afternoons and were not properly paid for their overtime. On the Saturday afternoon in question there was little trouble for the laying down of the rule. But it did take a little time before the men were caught working late Saturday afternoons.

Two weeks ago two men were seen coming down from the shop at 7 p. m. on a Saturday. They were not found in their shops. And the necessary evidence to prove the case 100 per cent was lacking. However, Manager Dubinsky thought he would somehow be able to make the case. The men, three in number, were summoned to the Executive Board and the charge of working excessive hours was duly presented.

The three men absolutely denied being guilty. Two men were ordered out of the Executive Board and the men were cross-examined one by one. The first reiterated his denial. The second weakened and said that he and another worked. Then the third man, weaker than the rest, confessed to the three of them having worked. Finally there was nothing for the three of them to do but to make a clean breast of it, which they finally did.

The Saturday following the meeting of the Executive Board Manager Dubinsky had the men in line for instructions. The question of imposing a fine was left for the next meeting of the Board and will be reported at the next regular meeting.

SPECIAL NOTICES

Many Jobs Open

Dress and cloak cutters who are unemployed are instructed to present themselves at the office of the Union, where a number of jobs are to be had.

For the past few days the office has been successful in supplying cutters for every one of the many jobs which have come in, both dress and cloak.

CUTTERS' UNION, LOCAL 10

Notice of Meetings

REGULAR MEETING Monday, March 9th

At Arlington Hall, 23 St. Mark's Place
Meetings Begin Promptly at 7:30 P. M.